

Friis, John

From: bill.debslater@comcast.net
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 11:07 AM
To: Friis, John
Cc: eca pace
Subject: HB 6666, Section 5

Dear Representative Fleischmann, Senator Gaffey, and members of the Education Committee,

I am writing to strongly advocate for Sec.5 of House Bill H6666, which will allow for adjunct faculty certificates to be issued to the highly-trained professional artists, who serve as ECA's part-time faculty, to continue their 35-year record of preparing Connecticut's high-school students for our competitive global economy. If they are required to become certified for 10-hour per week part-time positions, they will not be able to do so and the school will close. This will be a terrible loss to Connecticut's high school students in 19 school districts.

In addition, parents must be allowed to pay privately if their school districts do not cover tuitions to ECA. Students who pay privately make up 25% of the school; not allowing students whose school districts cannot cover tuitions (and this year's school-district budgets have already been set) will have the effect of depriving both students whose districts cannot pay AND students whose districts are able to pay of an extraordinary education at ECA, because ECA cannot lose 25% of its students and survive.

Our granddaughter graduated from ECA in 2005. Because of ECA she has become an awesome young woman and graduating this spring from Roger Williams University with a double major, English Literature and Secondary Education.

Her life would have turned out quite differently without the dedicated educators at ECA.

Deborah and William Slater